AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

1.   (Canceled)

2.   (**Currently amended**) The method of claim 46, comprising:

routing the pre-planned alternative route through a transit zone **wherein**

> **the transit zone executes a third copy of the topology distribution algorithm,**

> **the third copy of the topology distribution algorithm lacks any topology information for the source zone,**

> **the third copy of the topology distribution algorithm lacks any topology information for the destination zone, and**

> **the routing the pre-planned alternative route through the transit zone is based at least in part on the third copy of the topology distribution algorithm.**

3.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, comprising:

requesting new paths to be established between the source zone and the destination zone.

4.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, comprising:

requesting new paths to be established between the source zone and the destination zone, wherein

> the new paths meet the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.

5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, comprising:

establishing new paths between the source zone and the destination zone.

7.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, comprising:

establishing new paths between the source zone and the destination zone, wherein

the new paths meet the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.

8-45.   (Canceled)

46.   (**Currently amended**) A method comprising:

establishing an inter-zone link between a first border node of a source zone and a second border node of a destination zone, wherein

the source zone **executes a first copy of a topology distribution algorithm,** [[and]]

the destination zone execute**s a** ~~separate copies~~ **second copy** of [[a]] **the** topology distribution algorithm**,**

the first copy of the topology distribution algorithm lacks any topology information for the destination zone, and

the second copy of the topology distribution algorithm lacks any topology information for the source zone;

identifying an inter-zone link failure between the source zone and the destination zone;

identifying a pre-planned alternative route;

informing a node in the destination zone of the pre-planned alternative route;

informing a node in the source zone of the pre-planned alternative route; and

providing communication between the destination zone and the source zone via the pre-planned alternative route.

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47.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein:

the inter-zone link meets class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone; and

the pre-planned alternative route meets the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.

48.   (**Currently amended**) A network element comprising:

a processor configured to

establish an inter-zone link between a first border node of a source zone and a second border node of a destination zone, wherein

the source zone **executes a first copy of a topology distribution algorithm,** [[and]]

the destination zone execute**s a** ~~separate copies~~ **second copy** of [[a]] **the** topology distribution algorithm**.**

the first copy of the topology distribution algorithm lacks any topology information for the destination zone, and

the second copy of the topology distribution algorithm lacks any topology information for the source zone;

identify an inter-zone link failure between the source zone and the destination zone;

identify a pre-planned alternative route;

inform a node in the destination zone of the pre-planned alternative route;

inform a node in the source zone of the pre-planned alternative route; and

provide communication between the destination zone and the source zone via the pre-planned alternative route.

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49.   (Previously presented) The network element of claim 48, wherein the processor is configured to:

      route the pre-planned alternative route through a transit zone.

50.   (Previously presented) The network element of claim 48, wherein the processor is configured to:

      request new paths to be established between the source zone and the destination zone.

51.   (Previously presented) The network element of claim 48, wherein the processor is configured to:

      establish new paths between the source zone and the destination zone.

52.   (Previously presented) The network element of claim 48, wherein:

      the inter-zone link meets class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone; and

      the pre-planned alternative route meets the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.

53.   (Previously presented) The network element of claim 52, wherein the processor is configured to:

      request new paths to be established between the source zone and the destination zone, wherein

         the new paths are meet the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.

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54. (Previously presented) The network element of claim 52, wherein the processor is configured to:

    establish new paths between the source zone and the destination zone, wherein

        the new paths meet the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.

55. (**Currently amended**) A system comprising:

    means for establishing an inter-zone link between a first border node of a source zone and a second border node of a destination zone, wherein

        the source zone **executes a first copy of a topology distribution algorithm,** [[and]]

        the destination zone execute**s a** ~~separate copies~~ **second copy** of [[a]] **the** topology distribution algorithm**,**

        the first copy of the topology distribution algorithm lacks any topology information for the destination zone, and

        the second copy of the topology distribution algorithm lacks any topology information for the source zone;

    means for identifying an inter-zone link failure between the source zone and the destination zone;

    means for identifying a pre-planned alternative route;

    a processor configured to inform a node in the destination zone of the pre-planned alternative route;

    means for informing a node in the source zone of the pre-planned alternative route; and

    means for providing communication between the destination zone and the source zone via the pre-planned alternative route.

56. (Previously presented) The system of claim 55, comprising:

    means for routing the pre-planned alternative route through a transit zone.

57.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 55, comprising:

means for requesting new paths to be established between the source zone and the destination zone.

58.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 55, comprising:

means for establishing new paths between the source zone and the destination zone.

59.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 55, wherein:

the inter-zone link meets class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone; and

the pre-planned alternative route meets the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.

60.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 59, comprising:

means for requesting new paths to be established between the source zone and the destination zone, wherein

the new paths are meet the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.

61.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 59, comprising:

means for establishing new paths between the source zone and the destination zone, wherein

the new paths meet the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.

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62.   (**Currently amended**) A ~~tangible~~ <u>non-transitory</u> computer-readable storage medium having instructions encoded therein, wherein the instructions are executable by a processor to perform acts comprising:

> establishing an inter-zone link between a first border node of a source zone and a second border node of a destination zone, wherein
>
> > the source zone <u>**executes a first copy of a topology distribution algorithm,**</u> [[and]]
> >
> > the destination zone execute<u>s a</u> ~~separate copies~~ <u>second copy</u> of [[a]] <u>the</u> topology distribution algorithm<u>,</u>
> >
> > <u>**the first copy of the topology distribution algorithm lacks any topology information for the destination zone, and**</u>
> >
> > <u>**the second copy of the topology distribution algorithm lacks any topology information for the source zone**</u>;
>
> identifying an inter-zone link failure between the source zone and the destination zone;
>
> identifying a pre-planned alternative route;
>
> informing a node in the destination zone of the pre-planned alternative route;
>
> informing a node in the source zone of the pre-planned alternative route; and
>
> providing communication between the destination zone and the source zone via the pre-planned alternative route.

63.   (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 62, wherein the instructions are executable by the processor to perform acts comprising:

> routing the pre-planned alternative route through a transit zone.

64.   (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 62, wherein the instructions are executable by the processor to perform acts comprising:

> requesting new paths to be established between the source zone and the destination zone.

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65.   (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 62, wherein the instructions are executable by the processor to perform acts comprising:

establishing new paths between the source zone and the destination zone.

66.   (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 62, wherein:

the inter-zone link meets class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone; and

the pre-planned alternative route meets the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.

67.   (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 66, wherein the instructions are executable by the processor to perform acts comprising:

requesting new paths to be established between the source zone and the destination zone, wherein

the new paths are meet the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.

68.   (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 66, wherein the instructions are executable by the processor to perform acts comprising:

establishing new paths between the source zone and the destination zone, wherein

the new paths meet the class of service requirements between the source zone and the destination zone.